

In the Claims

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein
 said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,
 said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and
 said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;
relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of
 byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second
 frame;
relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first
 frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame; [[and]]
cross-connecting said time slots;
selecting at least one of said time slots;
receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;
sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;
randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and
outputting said outgoing time slots.

57.-58. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
extracting said network management information; and
routing said network management information.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connecting
comprises[[:]]) said selecting said at least one of said time slots.
selecting at least one of said time slots.

62. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein
 said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, said second frame is
 received subsequently to said first frame, and
 said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;
means for relocating existing network management information of said second frame
 from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations
 of said second frame;
means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations
 of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame; **[[and]]**
means for cross-connecting said time slots;
means for selecting at least one of said time slots;
means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;
means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input
 buffers;
means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input
 buffers; and
means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

63-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:
means for extracting said network management information; and
means for routing said network management information.

67. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said means for cross-connecting comprises~~[[[:]]]~~ said means for selecting,
~~means for selecting at least one of said time slots.~~

68. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a
plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,
 said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and
 said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;
 a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate
 network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first
 frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;
 a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-
 connect said time slots[[,]] ;
a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select
at least one of said time slots;
a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive
a plurality of incoming time slots;
a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;
a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and
an eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
output said outgoing time slots; and
computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in
 said computer readable storage media.

69.-71 (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

 a **fourth ninth** set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
 extract said network management information; and
 a **fifth tenth** set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select
 at least one of said time slots.